

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 130 (3-13)

March 4, 2013

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the new Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 130 was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Mullis welcomed special guests Steve Schultz, P.E., Department of Public Works, Division of Water and Sewer; and Jim Ports of the Harford County Department of Transportation. Paula also offered special acknowledgment congratulations to newly promoted Major Chris Swain and Captain John Krass of the Sheriff's Office. Local council members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, Yvonne Baldwin, Bob Frisch, Ron Sollod, Vincent Rabenau and James B. Lyons III. Member absent was Betty Byrne. Vincent Rabenau moved and Bob Frisch seconded that the February minutes be approved.

Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Major Chris Swain introduced Captain John Krass. Major Swain stated that the good news for Sector 10 is that burglaries are down. The bad news is that there are problems with theft from automobiles. Major Swain and Captain Krass shared that theft from automobiles usually happens at night when often cars are left unlocked and important things are in sight. They encouraged everyone to not become an easy target. It was also mentioned that it is believed professional thieves are stealing airbags and selling them to body shops. Purses, GPS systems and laptops are also being stolen. Major Swain said that community members should not make themselves victims of opportunities for thieves. If community members see what they think is a problem in their areas, call the Sheriff's department. Special thanks and congratulations were again offered for the presentation.

Paula Mullis spoke briefly concerning a county planting project by Planning and Zoning. The project is in honor of Arbor Day. Trees will be planted on the grounds of Edgewood Elementary School on Friday, March 29, 2013. The community is encouraged to come and help with the planting.

Curtis Buel, representing the Route 40 Republican Club, reported the availability of scholarships through state legislators. The scholarships are not based on income. More information will be made available to local councils.

Steven D. Schultz, P.E., Department of Public Works – Sewer Project on Joppa Farm Road

Steven Schultz reported that Harford County Division of Water and Sewer will begin a public sewer improvement project with the installation of a replacement sewer along the eastbound direction of Joppa Farm Road. The schedule is tentatively to begin construction in mid March 2013 and is to be completed in mid October. Working hours will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. to minimize problems during early morning and evening traffic. If evening work is to be done, homeowners will be notified. As work continues, new curbs and gutters will be included in the project. Steven Schulz was thanked for his presentation.

Jim Ports – Harford County Department of Transportation

Jim Ports shared that there are nine bus routes in the county. The transportation system has done a lot of enhancements and has changed the lives of many living in the county. Ridership has improved greatly since 2010. Citizens are able to read the codes at bus stops to learn the bus schedules. The schedule can also be downloaded from the county web site. Citizens with special needs can also make appointments for curb to curb service. Ridership at this time has more than doubled each day. There is a problem with bus routes to APG. Congress passed a bill that prohibits charter service on base. A question was asked from a community member about the need for bus shelters. Jim Ports said that there must be matching funds with the MTA. He also said that the MTA gave matching funds last year for FY 2014 which starts July 1. The department will look into erecting bus shelters in the county. All must meet ADA specifications. Paula thanked Mr. Ports for his presentation.

Vincent Rabenau, member of the community council, discussed plans of the Maryland Transportation Authority to expand I-95 in Harford County. He said that he had learned from members of the Trinity Church that MDTA representatives had spoken to church authorities about acquiring some of the church's property for a park and ride lot. Vincent Rabenau also said that he was part of a focus

group that worked with the MDTA through 2007. Section 200 covers the section I-95 between Route 43 in White Marsh and Route 22 in the Aberdeen area. Rabenau mentioned that when the expansion comes into our neighborhood it should be done in such a way that it limits the impact to the citizens and the environment. Paula thanked Vincent for his participation.

Board of Education Update by Local Councilman Bob Frisch

Bob Frisch, member of the Board of Education and local council member, said the Board will appoint an interim superintendent who will serve the school system for one year. If the person is a good fit for the school system, it is possible that the person may be signed on for a four-year term. Frisch said the Board is looking into options of getting more resources for the system. The options for naming rights in the system are being reviewed. He also stated that now is the time to be thinking about an election of a new board member for the Joppa/Edgewood area. Because of redistricting, he will no longer represent this area. Paula Mullis asked everyone to give a special thanks to Bob for sharing board information with the community. It is hoped that he will remain a part of the local council.

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie

Councilman Guthrie said he attended a symposium on the storm water plan. Although he supports cleaning up the bay and other waterways in the state, HB 987 will not do it. The purpose of the law is to establish the local means and funding to provide for the remediation and maintenance of the state's storm water management facilities, streams and creeks in its most heavily developed areas. Dion thinks this is not a good bill. He also believes that the whole state should pay its fair share in cleaning up the bay. Municipalities are not going to be taxed. Bill No. 13-12 to implement the required program was introduced to the County Council on February 19, 2013. A public hearing on the bill is scheduled for March 21, 2013. For more information on the issue, Councilman Guthrie suggested that everyone read his newsletter that is published monthly. There is nothing on the waste transfer station at this time. Budget hearings will start soon. Gloria Moon has been asked to represent District A at the hearing. Paula thanked Councilman Guthrie for his updates.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community Members

Ron Sollod of the fire department reminded everyone to pay attention to the warnings of severe weather expected for the area. Be sure to have flash lights and other necessary items for home safety. BGE has put on more equipment in anticipation of severe weather. Doris Carey spoke about activities that will take place at Harford Community College in the upcoming months. It is hoped that the communities will participate and support the college.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes by Doris Carey